

THE PURPOSE OF THE SLA IS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP.

SLA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 9  
JULY 2025

This newsletter will be published at minimum on a bi-annual basis in January and July. Content contributions are welcome, please forward these to Clive Dixon via [dixonfreelance@icloud.com](mailto:dixonfreelance@icloud.com)



## Association planning for the upcoming year

It was great to see so many of you in Melbourne for our annual conference. Thanks very much to the Conference Planning Team, members who gave presentations and those people who helped facilitate sessions. Feedback has been very positive.

At our annual general meeting the Operating Committee met face to face in Brisbane to plan for the 25/26 year. We are introducing the award of Life Membership to members who have made a significant contribution to the association and we have some new ideas for learning and development and how we use social media to build our Systems Leadership community. Details are in this newsletter.

Perhaps the biggest change for this year is that we have adopted a theme: 'Measuring Our Success'. It will apply to our work in general and especially as a theme for our conference and learning and development activities. Our association relies on the involvement of members to achieve our purpose, to assist each other in our application and understanding of Systems Leadership. There are many ways you can be involved.

Follow your interests and join one of the teams that organises the work of the association. Contact the Team Leader of Learning and Development, Conference Planning or Membership Engagement and get started.

Contribute to the conference by presenting your work in Systems Leadership or by putting your hand up to facilitate a session. Look out for expressions of interest or contact the Team Leader direct. Contribute to the newsletter by submitting an article, a case study, a book review or examples of how you are using Systems Leadership. Let others know what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Contribute to Learning and Development by facilitating a workshop on an element of Systems Leadership, lead the discussion on a case study related to your work or let other members know of a professional learning activity you found to be worthwhile.



Follow us on LinkedIn and contribute to the Systems Leadership community. Contact a member of the Operating Committee to share an idea or suggestion.

A measure of our success will be how much we all contribute to helping each other. It's your association.

Best wishes for the upcoming year,  
**Katie O'Keeffe Chair of the Operating Committee**

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## Membership fee and website password

Members who attended the conference had the annual membership fee included as part of the conference cost. Those people who were unable to make it to the conference will have received an invoice due for payment by 15 July 2025. Thank you to all of those who have already made payment of this.

As the due date for payment has now passed, the password for access to the members only resources area of the SLA website will be changed



shortly and all financial members will be advised via email. Anyone who subsequently becomes a member or pays their 2025 membership fee will of course be likewise informed. If you have any questions or have not received an invoice please contact our secretariat on [enquiries@sldassociation.com](mailto:enquiries@sldassociation.com)

**Mark Potter** Secretary

## Association Communications

At our most recent meeting of the Operating Committee (OC), we discussed the current and possible future use of various media platforms to support the work of the SLA. Here is a summary of our views:

- **Website:** This is effectively our 'building', serving as a content repository for information and resources for members and a promotional tool for SL. It is designed to be search engine friendly and is regularly updated to reflect the association's current work.
- **LinkedIn:** The SLA uses this to connect with current and potential members, share the association's work in learning and development and create a community around SL. Members are encouraged to engage with and share posts from the SLA.
- **WhatsApp:** The OC is also considering how we might use WhatsApp as a communication tool. We are currently testing its effectiveness within the OC to aid with communications using the 'Communities' option. We will explore the possibility of creating further subgroups for our various OC sub-teams and whether it may ultimately be expanded for engaging with members.



If you have any thoughts or suggestions on our use of these platforms, don't hesitate to get in touch with us directly via our Secretariat at [enquiries.sldassociation.com](mailto:enquiries.sldassociation.com)

**Mark Potter**  
Secretary

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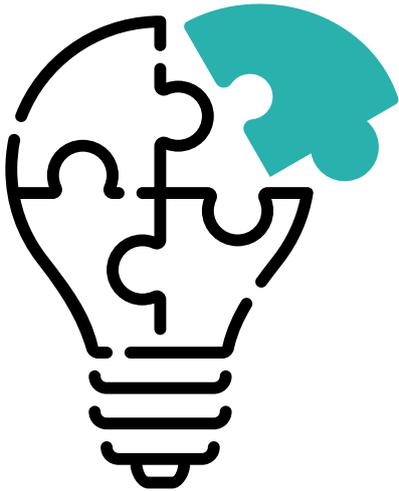
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## Learning and Development Update

The SLA remains committed to offering regular learning and development opportunities for its Members. Late last year a one-day, face-to-face Systems Leadership (SL) Masterclass was held in Melbourne - with a focus on putting the theory of Systems Leadership into practice through a case study approach. The day was particularly successful for all involved, with participants coming from several different industries and employer groups. Of course, in May this year at the annual conference in Melbourne we continued the learning and development focus with more opportunities offered on Day 1 - and again these were well received by those Members in attendance.

In our next cycle of learning and development opportunities, we will focus on sessions to be delivered Online. In the first instance, these will provide SL subject area explanations and discussion - for example, we are currently planning two sessions that will be delivered by experienced and accredited Members on specific SL content, such as Levels of Work, Task Assignments, the Values Continua etc.

Subsequent to these two sessions, we will also be offering an Online Advanced Q&A session, again presented and moderated by one of our experienced, accredited practitioner Members. This session will particularly focus on the SLA theme for the coming year, that of 'Measuring our Success'.



More detail in relation to these learning and development sessions will be published shortly. Finally, I'm always happy to receive questions or feedback in relation to any of our learning and development opportunities – please contact me on my email address below.

**Noel Rawlins**  
Learning and Development Team Lead  
[snrawlins@bigpond.com](mailto:snrawlins@bigpond.com)

## Members feedback survey

You should all have received an email from the SLA on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July inviting you to take part in our member feedback survey to help us as an operating committee to understand you, our members, better and to identify potential strategies for us to improve engagement. If you have not yet taken part and would like to do so we would really value your input, please click on the link below to access the survey and share your thoughts:

[Member Feedback Survey](#)

Thank you to all of the members who have already completed the survey, we really appreciate your time.



**Phillip Bartlett**  
Librarian



**Tim Banner**  
Learning and Development

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## Conference 2025 Feedback

Members' feedback was generally very positive. Sessions were well received. The smaller, more intimate conference gave more opportunities for people to engage with each other.

The app was effective for organising the program and for providing information on the speakers through their profiles. While the app was useful for capturing Q&A during the presentations we need better ways for the facilitator to use that information. Participants indicated they would like more conversation and linkages between sessions. As we prepare for next year the Conference Planning Team will be looking at other ways of providing real time engagement other than via the app.

It was felt the conference flowed well and that the facilitators did a great job introducing their speakers and managing sessions. It was good to have different people facilitate the sessions and getting to know our members. The venue was good, the catering excellent. The networking event worked well and people who attended the dinner enjoyed themselves. The use of the SLA logo and colour scheme in banners, tote bags and notebooks was very effective. Embroidered polo shirts were much appreciated and will be available by pre-order for members for the 2026 conference.

The Operating Committee discussed the need to have at least one speaker whose presentation while linked to Systems Leadership, challenges peoples' thinking. In addition to members sharing their stories of using Systems Leadership, the conference planning team will also look to experienced practitioners to take our thinking to the next level, consider the impact of their work, why things did and didn't happen as expected. Similar sessions by Rod, Sarah and Tim at previous conferences went down a treat.

Many thanks to our presenters, facilitators and the Melbourne Conference Planning Team.

See you all at the Systems Leadership Conference, May 2026 in Brisbane.

## Conference presentations

The presentations from the 2025 conference in Melbourne are now available via the members section of the website.

<https://slassociation.org/2025-annual-conference/>



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## Event Leaf app - Printing your notes

One of the questions we noted from the conference feedback was that people wanted to know how to print their notes which they took in the app, we have confirmed with the app developers that unfortunately you are unable to print direct from the app, however you are able to copy your notes and paste them into either a notes app, or word and can print from



there. If your phone doesn't connect to a printer you are also able to install the EventLeaf app on a windows pc and can then access your notes and paste into word from there.

**Emma Trumper**  
Secreteriat

## New members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us in the previous 6 months:

- Jacqueline Waka
- Andre Boucher
- Chris Bartlett
- Emily Mcguire
- Nadine Keny
- Enrico Zanzarella
- James Whitehorn
- Adrian Jeloudev
- Leesa Gon-Chee
- Janet Lee
- Colleen Deakin
- Warwick Mitchell
- Zoe Dyson
- Erin Freeman
- Naomi White
- Kelly Turner
- Melita Parziani
- Mark Dunlop
- Vicky Dunlop
- Tom Sullivan
- Deborah Leyva

## Life Membership

In 2024 the association changed its name to the Systems Leadership Association and modified its purpose. Next year the association will have been operating for 12 years. At the July meeting of the Operating Committee it was decided to formally recognise members who have made a significant contribution to the Systems Leadership Association over time through awarding Life Membership.

Life Membership will be determined by the Operating Committee through nomination and vote at the annual general meeting which is held after conference. Life membership will be presented annually at the conference or at an alternate event when circumstances warrant. Life Members will receive ongoing membership of the association at no cost. The names of Life Members will be displayed in the newsletter and on the website which will include a summary of their contributions. Our appreciation for their contribution to the association will be recognised at a special, annual event e.g., 'the Life Members Cocktail Party'.



This year four nominations for Life Membership are supported by the Operating Committee. These members are being contacted prior to announcing their awards.

**Clive Dixon**  
Membership Engagement Team

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## Current operating committee members and roles

### LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT TEAM



**Noel Rawlins Learning and Development (TL)**  
[snrawlins@bigpond.com](mailto:snrawlins@bigpond.com)



**Katie O’Keeffe Chair**  
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**Tim Banner Learning and Development (TM)**  
[tim@reconceive.com.au](mailto:tim@reconceive.com.au)

### CONFERENCE TEAM



**Andrew Moore Conference Planning (TL)**  
[andrew@response.edu.au](mailto:andrew@response.edu.au)



**Mark Potter Secretary**  
[markpotter@mconsulting.com.au](mailto:markpotter@mconsulting.com.au)

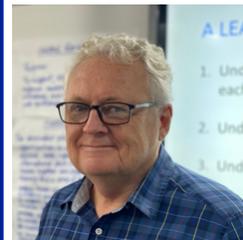


**Phillip Bartlett Librarian**  
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**Emma Trumper Secreteriat**  
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### MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TEAM



**Clive Dixon Member Engagement (TL)**  
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**Richard Huelin Member Engagement (TM)**  
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